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THE LA SALLE EXPLORER

VOL. V. NO. 3,

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Explorers Continue Winning Ways

Coming into the MAAC Tournament, the La Salle Explorers have already accomplished many goals and set a number of records.

Entering 1989-90, La Salle had not beaten Notre Dame and Temple in the Lionel Simmons-Speedy Morris era, had not appeared in regular season AP and UPI top 20 polls since 1977, had never appeared on network television, and had not won an outright Philadelphia Big Five Title since 1975. This year's group has accomplished all this, and more.

Simmons has captured the media's attention with his run to become only the fifth player in NCAA history to score 3,000 points in a career. On the way to this milestone, the "Train" would also become the first player in NCAA history to accumulate that lofty point total and grab more than 1,085 rebounds, and become La Salle's all-time men's leader in scoring and steals, passing Michael Brooks and Ralph Lewis respectively. He already was the school's blocked shot leader before this season began.

Doug Overton has registered some milestones for the Explorers as well, as he scored his 1,000 point against St. Peter's on February 5, becoming just the 32nd La Salle men's player to do so. He also became the La Salle men's all-time leader in assists, as he passed the mark of 461 at Manhattan on February 10 that was shared by Chip Greenberg and Darryl Gladden.

The other members of the cast have contributed greatly to the Explorers' success, especially newcomer Randy Woods. The starting guard who has averaged about 13 points a game is the team's leader in three-point field goals and is near the top on La Salle and in the MAAC

in steals. Another new addition, forward Bron Holland, has given the Explorer's someone who can contribute key rebounds off the bench. Forward Jack Hurd and center Milko Lieverst have been steady performers for La Salle, and Bobby (Instant Offense) Johnson has continued to provide needed firepower off the bench averaging about nine points a game.

As for the games themselves, the highlights have been many. The Explorers traveled to Chicago for a meeting with DePaul. La Salle did not disappoint in its first network television appearance, thumping the Blue Demons 83-62. The loss was DePaul's worst ever at the Rosemont Horizon and only the 17th defeat overall on the Horizon floor in 150 games.

The Explorers defeated Temple 63-62, January 3 at McGonigle Hall as Simmons totaled 23 points and 14 rebounds despite playing with an abscessed tooth. For the Owls, the loss to La Salle snapped a 27 game home winning streak.

The Irish came to town January 12 and lost in a thrilling nationally-televised game to La Salle 86-78 at the Civic Center. The contest was extremely well-played, as each team shot better than 55% from the floor and the Explorers only committed three turnovers the entire game. Simmons and Doug Overton each scored 27 points.

The victory over St. Joseph's, 93-76 at a sold-out Alumni Field House on February 12 gave La Salle the City Series title, as they completed a sweep of the Philly schools. The Explorers defeated Temple, Pennsylvania 86-83 and Villanova 71-70 for the other victories. Against



Explorer sixth man, senior Bob Johnson

St. Joe's, Simmons had a rare off-night but his teammates, especially sixth-man Bobby Johnson, picked up the slack. Johnson connected for eight three-point shots which tied a La Salle mark and helped the Explorers to a team-record 16 three-pointers

Perhaps the wildest game of the year took place on January 6, as the run-and-gun Loyola-Marymount Lions defeated the Explorers 121-116 in front of a national cable television audience and a sold-out Civic Center. The game was a homecoming for Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble of the Lions who each played high school ball in Philadelphia. Kimble led Loyola with 32 points while Simmons scored 34 points and grabbed a season-high 19 rebounds for La Salle.

--MARK HATOFF

Swim Team Rebuilds For Season

If the season were to end today for the men's swimming team, Head Coach John Lyons would consider it a success.

But only time (and a few more meets) will actually tell whether or not the season is actually a success.

After losing two captains (Dan Ebel and Jeff Gershe) to graduation, Lyons and his young swim team had to regroup and rebuild.

"Dan and Jeff were good for eighteen to twenty points a meet on their own, so of course it was tough to see them go," said Lyons.

This season, though, the Explorers have rebounded nicely, garnering a 6-2 dual meet record halfway through the season, including a big win over Villanova whom they had not beaten in two years.

"Coming into this season, we did have some holes to fill," Lyons explained. "We had to bring in an inexperienced team that had to

replace two captains. So far, I think we've done very well."

Those picking up the slack have been Mathew Nunnally, John Croiser, William Wiebking and Matthew Hettche, to name a few.

"Those four guys have really done an outstanding job for us. They have continued to improve with every meet, and that is all I can ask," Lyons stated.

Another big plus for the Explorers has been senior Mark Sermarini. As captain of the team in his last year, Lyons said Sermarini is as consistent as ever. "Mark is swimming as well as he ever has. He's very consistent and always works hard for us. He's been a great captain for this young team."

The divers, too, have done a remarkable job. "Cliff Johnson, Kevin Stahlman and Craig Brewster have all come into their own this season. They all have improved greatly and continue to improve with each passing meet," Lyons said.



Head Coach John Lyons

According to Lyons, this season still holds some exciting possibilities.

"With us, Army and Fordham, the MAAC championships should be very interesting. We all will be swimming hard, so anything can happen on a given day," Lyons said. "Hopefully we will hit our peak and do well."

-Mark Krajnak

Explorer Extras... Explorer Extras

WRESTLING -The Explorers opened their season with a first place finish in their own Explorer Wrestling Classic, to give first year head coach Ed Lawless his initial victory. . . . The matmen have posted a 11-6 record with three matches to go for the season . . . Wrestling well for the Explorers have been freshman Chris Shalbert at 121 pounds, sophomore Tom Sirianni at 137 pounds, sophomore Vincent Ernst at 161 pounds, junior Shannon Watson at 170 pounds and senior Pat Sheridan at 180 pounds . . . The team will close out the regular season with matches against Wagner College and American

University.

FIELD HOCKEY - The women's field hockey team had three Academic All-Americans named this fall. Garnering the awards were junior Melissa Shubert, sophomore Jen Miller and sophomore Gina Russo. Each maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better. . . . Junior Tracy Edwards, along with Shubert, have been named co-captains for the 1990-91 season. Both players are three year starters on the team . . . The field hockey team will be selling beach towels as a fundraiser. The towels will display the Explorer logo in navy and gold trim. Towels can be obtained by contacting any field hockey player or by calling the Athletic Office at (215) 951-1516.

TRACK - With the regular portion of the season winding down, both the men's and women's teams will be gearing up for year-end competition. . . . The men will compete in the Haverford "Last Chance Meet" on February 25 and then on to the IC4A Championships at Harvard, March 2-4. That same weekend, the women will compete at Boston University in the ECAC Championships. . . . Those qualifying for the IC4A's have been senior John Kovatch, junior Bob Ilik and freshman J.J. Hunter.

Nunez Named Coach-Of-The-Year

The competitive fire that burns in an athlete is hard to parallel with anything else in life.

Except, maybe, the competitive fire that burns in the coach.

This competitiveness is certainly alive and flourishing in head women's volleyball coach Jackie Nunez.

In only her second season as head coach at La Salle, Nunez and her young team (seven of the nine players were either freshmen or sophomores) surpassed all expectations by finishing with a very respectable 18-22 record, a second place Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference finish and a Coach-of-the-Year award for Nunez.

But through it all, Nunez has remained humble, to say the least. "I had high expectations for the girls, even though we were young," Nunez said. "I wanted us to be regionally competitive and leave every game

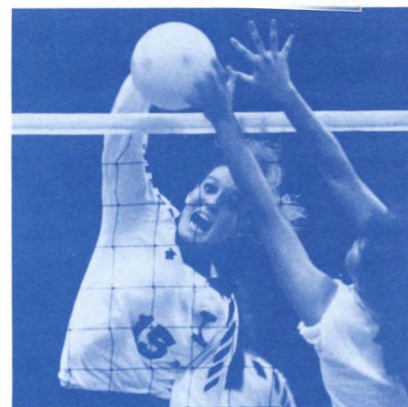
with the opponent respecting us. I think we accomplished those goals."

Since coming to the Explorer program in 1988 after a stint as assistant coach at the University of Rhode Island, Nunez has seen the La Salle program grow and develop.

"When I came here the program was very unstable. I tried to institute some changes, mainly those dealing with the schedule," Nunez explained. "I scheduled some tough regional games so the girls would also get competitive and see that they could do well against good competition."

One of Nunez's proudest moments this season had been watching her recruits. Freshmen Dana Shepherd, Dana Spencer and Cathy Bissinger were named to the All-Conference team, while Shepherd shared MVP honors for the MAAC tournament.

"I was more happy to see the girls receive those awards than anything I could have gotten. They played great



Dana Spencer enjoyed a superb freshman season

and deserved the recognition."

As for her award, "Sure it's nice to be noticed by your fellow coaches, but I was more happy with our play in the tournament and our season overall," Nunez conceded.

Spoken like a true competitor!

--MARK KRAJNAK

La Salle Wins Invitational

In one of the most exciting Rohm and Haas/La Salle Invitational championship finals ever, it was the team from 20th Street and Olney Avenue that emerged victorious. La Salle's thrilling overtime defeat of the University of Connecticut, 82-73, marked the third year in a row that the Explorers captured their own invitational title.

Now in its tenth year of existence the Rohm and Haas/La Salle Invitational has come to signify excellence through the consistently strong teams that make appearances and by the first-class manner in which the tournament is conducted. Rohm and Haas, a Philadelphia-based chemical company, began sponsoring the tournament last year, helping to insure the

top-notch quality of the invitational.

On the first day of competition, the visiting Wright State had the unlucky task of challenging the Explorers. It proved to be fatal for the Lady Raiders as they suffered an 84-57 thrashing by the Blue and Gold. La Salle received scoring from the entire 11-man roster, making for a very balanced attack. Double digits were registered by Mary Greybush (16 pts., 9 reb.), Jen McGowan (11 pts.) and Brenda Mason (11 pts.).

In the second round of the tournament, La Salle earned the right to face Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference foe Canisius after the Lady Griffs slid by Colgate, 64-57. The Explorers soon learned just how good the 6-1 Lady Griffs really were, as they were only up by one at the half. La Salle received several scares down the stretch, but they met them head-on

and were finally able to conquer Canisius, 58-50. Senior tri-captain Anita Plakans led the Explorers with a 14-point performance.

The Explorers again found themselves in the final, this time against UConn. Connecticut led 34-28 at the half, but La Salle fought back to tie the game at 63. Behind the career-high 28-point performance of junior Mary Greybush the Explorers mounted a 20-point overtime surge, while holding the faltering Huskies to just nine points.

Most valuable player honors went to UConn's Laura Lishness, who scored 39 points overall and dished out 25 assists. La Salle placed two players on the All-Tournament team, Greybush and sophomore Jennifer McGowan

--DAWN WRIGHT

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Albany, New York

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Fri., March 2 | First Round |
| Sat., March 3 | Quarter-Finals |
| Sun., March 4 | Semi-Finals (Sports Channel) |
| Mon., March 5 | Championship (ESPN) |

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

La Salle University

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Wed., March 7 | Opening Round |
| Thur., March 8 | Quarter-finals |
| Fri., March 9 | Semi-Finals |
| Sat., March 10 | Championship |

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| March | | |
| 13 | BB Tennie | 3:00 p.m. |
| 14 | BB Delaware | 3:00 p.m. |
| 20 | SB U. of Delaware | 2:45 p.m. |
| 21 | BB Villanova | 3:00 p.m. |
| | T Pharmacy | 3:30 p.m. |
| 22 | BB Spring Garden | 3:00 p.m. |
| | T Westchester | 3:30 p.m. |
| 23 | T Loyola | 3:00 p.m. |
| 24 | SB Hofstra | 12:00 DH |
| | MT Penn/ St. Joseph's | |
| 26 | SB Tennie | 2:45 DH |
| 27 | BB Penn | 3:00 p.m. |
| 28 | BB Temple | 3:00 p.m. |
| | T Rutgers-Camden | 3:00 p.m. |
| 29 | BB Long Island | 3:00 p.m. |
| 31 | BB Fairfield | 12:00 DH |
| | SB Shippensburg | 1:00 DH |
| | C MACC Championship Regatta | |

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|------------|
| April | | |
| 1 | BB Fairfield | 12:00 DH |
| 3 | BB Westchester | 3:30 p.m. |
| | SB Temple | 2:45 DH |
| 4 | T Glassboro | 3:00 p.m. |
| 6 | G Widener/ Ursinus | |
| 9 | BB Pace | 3:30 p.m. |
| 10 | BB Monmouth | 3:30 p.m. |
| 12 | G Franklin & Marshall/ Delaware | |
| 14 | BB New York Tech | 12:00 DH |
| | SB Long Island | 1:00 DH |
| 17 | T St. Joseph's | 3:30 p.m. |
| 18 | BB Fairleigh Dickinson | 3:30 p.m. |
| | T Tennie | 3:30 p.m. |
| | G St. Joseph's/ Villanova | |
| 20 | T Upstate | 3:30 p.m. |
| 21 | T E. Stroudsburg | 12:30 p.m. |
| | SB Iona | 1:00 DH |
| 22 | SB Penn | 1:00 DH |
| 23 | T Seton Hall | 3:15 p.m. |
| 24 | SB E. Stroudsburg | 2:45 DH |
| 25 | BB St. Joseph's | 3:30 p.m. |
| 28 | BB Fordham | 12:00 DH |
| | T St. Peter's | 12:30 p.m. |
| 29 | BB Fordham | 12:00 p.m. |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| May | | |
| 5 | C Bergen Cup Regatta | |
| 11 | C Dad Vail Regatta | |
| 12 | | |
| | BB= Baseball SB= Softball T= Men's Tennis | |
| | G= Golf C= Crew MT= Men's Track | |

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